

**Question for written answer E-005980/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Christine Anderson (ID)

Subject: EU-funded film productions and state censorship like that practiced by China

EU Member States claim to attach great importance to freedom of expression and artistic freedom so as to ensure that the formation of a free democratic will is not disrupted by state censorship and that culture can develop freely and in an unbridled manner. It is in the interest of the EU Member States to promote this view across the world through film productions.

According to press reports¹ and to a reply from the EPRS², censorship policies, such as those pursued by China, have a significant influence including on other countries' film productions, as these seek to be shown in the censoring country.

Such censorship runs counter to the EU Member States' fundamental conception of freedom of expression and artistic freedom.

1. Can the Commission rule out that film productions supported by the EU are subject to censorship and can it insist on films being shown freely? If so, how is this ensured, and if not, how much money has been spent over the last ten years on film productions which have been subject to censorship abroad?
2. What is the Commission's basic understanding of freedom of expression and artistic freedom if film productions have to be censored in line with government stipulations in order to be allowed to be shown? In such cases, is it freedom of expression and artistic freedom or the desire of the film industry to maximise profits which prevails?
3. What is the Commission's view of state censorship systems that use arbitrariness, framing, social scoring, state observation, denunciation and defamation, and disregard freedom of expression and artistic freedom?

¹ https://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de/film-mulan-aktivisten-rufen-zu-boykott-von-disneyproduktion.2156.de.html?dram:article_id=483789

² EPRS Request number: 106286 (see annex)